United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.6

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
25 October 2016

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair:	Mr. Djani	(Indonesia)
later:	Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair)	(Republic of Moldova)
later:	Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair)	(Spain)
later:	Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair)	(Republic of Moldova)

Contents

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

(b) South-South cooperation for development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-17250 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/69/737 and A/69/737/Add.1; A/71/63-E/2016/8; A/71/292/Rev.1)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (A/71/39 and A/71/208)

1. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: recommendations (A/71/292/Rev.1), said that the recommendations should be read in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 (in document A/71/63-E/2016/8). The recommendations had benefitted from the outcomes of analytic work produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of the United Nations development system as well as independent experts, along with the outcomes of key processes such as the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system.

2. The recommendations reflected a shared understanding that the current development landscape had changed. Global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, conflicts and humanitarian crises, as well as the interconnectedness of global markets, could not be contained by borders. Moreover, while the number of middle-income countries continued to grow, inequality was on the rise. Uncertainty and volatility continued to threaten or even reverse development gains, and the field of development actors had expanded. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embodied the recognition that current challenges required a collective response accompanied by adjustments in the United Nations development system. The recommendations were intended to catalyse just such a process, with the aim of moving towards a United Nations system that worked as one.

3. It was vital to define the core functions of the United Nations development system in a tailored, context-specific and integrated manner to align with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account both what the development system should and what it should not do. Those functions needed to be supported by appropriate funding flows and financing mechanisms; the report therefore set out a number of proposals to scale up core and "core-like" funding and adopt common reporting standards. Adjustments needed to be made to governance structures to increase system-wide accountability for results, and the field architecture of the United Nations development system needed to be reviewed, rationalized and aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Countries needed to develop an overall vision for collective sustainable development outcomes that embodied the "one country, one United Nations framework" approach.

4. It was evident that the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda had raised the bar for the United Nations development system. A number of initiatives had already been undertaken to implement the Agenda at the global, regional and country levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be critical in charting the course for the immediate years ahead, while laying the foundations for more far-reaching change. The report therefore called for a review that would provide strategic direction, focus more on outcome than on process and encompass the United Nations development system as a whole.

5. **Mr. Chediek** (Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/71/208), said that the report highlighted the growing importance of South-South cooperation and its catalytic role with respect to the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change. The report also assessed the steps taken by the United Nations development system to enhance support for South-South and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, and made a number of recommendations in that regard.

6. Introducing the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session (A/71/39), he recalled that delegations at the high-level plenary segment of the

session had highlighted the urgent need to maximize the scope of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda; the potential of such cooperation to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development; and the need to move beyond traditional forms of development cooperation by drawing on countries' comparative advantages, complementarities and synergies. They had also drawn attention to the many ways in which South-South cooperation could drive innovation, efficiency, sustainability and growth. A number of exemplary initiatives had been introduced at the thematic segment of the session.

7. **Mr. Tatiyapermpoon** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group believed that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide long-term strategic guidance to the United Nations development system at all levels, leading to a fundamental reform of that system. Operational activities for development should take into account the need to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in their efforts to achieve long-term sustainable development, while bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground. Continued and enhanced support must be provided to those countries in line with the 2030 Agenda.

8. The Group reaffirmed the importance of the Review itself as a vehicle for establishing system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities. It strongly believed that development was a goal unto itself, and constituted a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations operational activities for development, while at the same time being interlinked with peace and security and human rights, which were mutually reinforcing. Development activities must remain universal and voluntary and should be flexible enough to respond to the needs and priorities of programme countries. National leadership and engagement throughout the process were vital to ensure meaningful outcomes.

9. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets must be mainstreamed into the work of the system, bearing in mind that the overall objective of the 2030 Agenda was the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty. At the same time, it was important to address the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, and also the needs of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and of peoples and countries under foreign occupation. To that end, it was essential to perform a system-wide mapping of existing capacities and expertise in order to identify gaps and overlaps with a view towards improving synergies and avoiding fragmentation.

10. Core resources were the bedrock of United Nations operational activities for development. The Group was concerned about the accelerating imbalance between core and non-core resources, which must be addressed, as a matter of urgency, by operationalizing the concept of critical mass of core resources, incentivizing donors to reverse the decline in core resources, broadening the donor base and ensuring full cost recovery. Non-core contributions needed to be more flexible and must be aligned with the national priorities and plans of programme countries.

11. Comprehensive reform of the governance architecture of the system was urgently required in order to enhance its coordination and efficiency and improve its transparency, accountability and responsiveness to Member States. In that regard, the Group of 77 and China stressed the importance of equitable geographical representation in the system's senior posts. It was also important to improve the resident coordinator system by, inter alia, activating a functional firewall, establishing an accountability framework, exercising due diligence, enhancing the selection process based on geographic and gender diversity and reviewing its funding arrangements.

12. While recognizing the importance of the Delivering as One approach for harmonizing service delivery in programme countries, the Group reiterated that the principle of voluntary adoption must be kept in mind. It was important in that regard to establish a clear mechanism for system-wide monitoring and reporting.

13. South-South cooperation was a manifestation of solidarity among the peoples and countries of the South; it was complementary to, but not a substitute for traditional North-South cooperation. In that regard, the

Group reiterated its call for United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue taking concrete measures to mainstream their support for South-South and triangular cooperation in order to assist developing countries in maximizing the benefits and impact of such cooperation.

14. **Ms. Nguyen** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the United Nations development system had long provided invaluable support to her region. ASEAN welcomed the strengthening of cooperation in that regard, as reflected in the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2016-2020 to implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, which would promote complementarities between the 2030 Agenda and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

15. The United Nations development system must deliver a unified response and be fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda, while enhancing performance and accountability. Its support for developing countries must respond to diverse national needs and capacities and be anchored in national ownership. To that end, the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should aim at better positioning the system, offering strategic guidelines and defining results beyond the achievements of individual entities; the United Nations development system should cut through vertical organizational lines and silos and build on its absolute and comparative advantages and should focus on the core functions mandated by Member States.

16. A key issue to be tackled in the draft resolution was the imbalance between core and non-core resources, which adversely impacted system-wide response as it encouraged silos, fragmentation, competition and overlaps in operational activities. Integrated efforts were needed to align Headquarters with country-level operations. System-wide mechanisms targeted at coherence and coordination, such as Delivering as One and standard operating procedures, should be encouraged where appropriate.

17. With respect to South-South and triangular cooperation, ASEAN had been fostering initiatives to share knowledge, experience and best practices to narrow the development gap. As part of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, it would continue to promote regional connectivity, robust productivity growth, equitable development and inclusivity, and called on the United Nations system and other development partners to support those efforts. However, such cooperation was complementary to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. ASEAN reiterated its call for developed countries to meet their official development assistance (ODA) commitments in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It appreciated the enhanced support from the United Nations development system particularly in the areas of policy dialogue, capacity development, data and information sharing, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. South-South and triangular cooperation should be mainstreamed in the policy frameworks and strategies of the system.

18. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and his own country, said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review needed to be strategic, which meant that it should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and other key agreements; provide principles and incentives for the system to work better, both within and outside the United Nations; be action-oriented; and offer ways to measure progress, with clear follow-up actions and indicators. The Review must be completed on time, in order to have traction in guiding the strategic plans of funds and programmes and the remainder of the overall development system.

19. The United Nations system should be empowered to do better by dismantling siloed approaches across a range of issues. Systemic problems continued to hinder progress in several key areas. Although there had never been more money in the United Nations system, core functions were still struggling for finance. Moreover, with respect to personnel and staffing, there were still critical delays in integrating qualified people onto teams and into jobs. The system needed to adapt to the changing context to remain relevant and move ahead. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was one of the tools to achieve that objective.

20. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that the small island developing States remained committed to the strengthening of United Nations operational activities for development and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the SIDS Accelerated

Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway as the blueprint for their future. The 2030 Agenda required a change in the mindset of all players — Governments, the United Nations system and the overall international community. The draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review needed to provide strategic guidance for the full implementation of the Agenda.

21. Key aspects to be addressed in formulating the resolution included the need for the United Nations development system to reduce and ultimately eliminate unnecessary competition across entities and maximize the use of systemic diversities to deliver service in an efficient, effective, coherent, coordinated and cost-effective way. Clear reporting lines and leadership were needed to enhance transparency and accountability. The priorities and activities of small island developing States must be incorporated into relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, taking into account the specific challenges they faced, and ensuring support for augmenting their capacities, including by strengthening the capacity and expertise of the relevant departments within the system so that they were better able to address and promote the interests of those States within and between entities of the United Nations development system at all levels.

22. Core funding played a critical role in the predictability and reliability of service delivery. With the continuing shift to non-core funding, there was an urgent need to broaden the donor base, including ODA. Financing should be provided based on measurements that went beyond gross domestic product, and collaboration should be enhanced with international financial institutions.

23. There was no "one size fits all" approach to the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations development system should strengthen its components at every level. In particular, there was a need to strengthen country teams, especially the resident coordinator system, by redefining the role of the resident coordinator through implementation of a functioning firewall and the provision of predictable, possibly pooled, funding. Funds, programmes and specialized agencies needed to be repositioned so that they functioned at all levels in a coordinated way. A system-wide mapping of existing capacities and expertise must be developed in order to identify gaps and overlaps, promote synergy and avoid fragmentation.

24. Genuine, durable partnerships based on mutual respect with mutual benefits would remain critical for the small island developing States to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Alliance reiterated its call for the United Nations system to help facilitate such engagement. It highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic framework of operational activities for development, on the clear understanding that those types of cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, which should remain the primary means of development cooperation.

25. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that it was unfortunate that there had been minimal improvement in the adequacy and predictability of funding for operational activities for development.

26. The outcome of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should better align the United Nations development system with the 2030 Agenda and ensure the necessary resources for development. The quadrennial review was also an opportunity to engage Member States in a fair and constructive manner to analyse the value, effectiveness and coherence of all United Nations operational activities for development in the field and to set system-wide policy guidelines for specialized agencies, funds and programmes, based on the principles of universality, neutrality and multilateralism.

27. Poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable development should be the guiding principles for operational activities for development, which must also be country-driven. The development system must strive to Deliver as One at the global, regional and country levels despite all attendant challenges. Operational activities for development must take into account the need for national capacity-building when addressing the long-term development challenges of recipient countries.

28. The disproportion between core and non-core funding continued to weaken the multilateral framework for development assistance; while that divide might benefit donor countries, it was extremely worrisome for recipient countries. CARICOM was also

concerned that donors had still not met the prescribed targets for ODA), despite renewing their commitments; it therefore called on Member States to fulfil those commitments.

29. CARICOM reemphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, which should be integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations system. However, such cooperation was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation; triangular cooperation must likewise remain a major element of development activities. In order for the multilateral framework to be successful, system-wide actions must be harmonized without using a "one-size-fits-all" approach to development.

30. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that the United Nations development system must reposition itself to respond to both the opportunities and the challenges of the universal, transformative and ambitious 2030 Agenda. Development cooperation must be made more effective and predictable, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, by providing developing countries with regular and timely information regarding medium-term planned support. In that regard, the development system must also cooperate in a complementary manner with other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

31. Based on the principles of universality, integrality and leaving no one behind, efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda should target those most in need, regardless of their geographical location. It was therefore necessary to target people in need, not just countries. In responding to the sustainable development needs of all, it must be ensured that middle-income countries did not lose their development gains while tackling the challenges they faced.

32. The outcome recommendations of the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system must be taken into account, including the need to acknowledge the multidimensional challenges faced by middle-income countries and to strengthen cooperation with those countries in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

33. The first Ministerial Meeting of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries had recently been held to discuss the particular sustainable development challenges of that group of countries. The meeting had focused on concrete proposals that could advance the cooperation of the United Nations development system with middle-income countries, taking into account the broad and complex diversity of those countries and their capacities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the importance of developing transparent measurements of progress in sustainable development that went beyond income criteria. Such new measurements must recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.

34. In order to enhance coordination and work on long-term strategic planning with middle-income countries, the United Nations development system should establish an inter-agency and system-wide action plan for the coordination of sustainable development in those countries that was evidence-based and included clear objectives, indicators and financing sources.

35. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that since the 2030 Agenda and other agreements adopted in 2015 paid special attention to the least developed countries, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must translate that attention into dedicated, comprehensive and tailor-made support to the those countries from the United Nations development system. The focus areas of the development system would need to expand exponentially to reflect the highly interconnected, cross-cutting and multisectoral nature of the new agreements.

36. Eradicating poverty and hunger, guaranteeing access to public health, education and other social services, addressing the impacts of climate change and building productive capacity should remain at the centre of development cooperation efforts. The United Nations development system should also support least developed countries with regard to data, statistics, knowledge platforms and monitoring and reporting activities during national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. For the least

developed countries, enhanced normative and operational support, including financial and technical support, were crucial elements to achieve the Goals and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

37. As the existing contributions for operational activities were far from sufficient, it was vitally important to expand the donor base and vertically expand support from existing donors. In 2014, the expenditure in least developed countries by the United Nations system had been only about 53 per cent of total country-level expenditure. Over the following five years, that volume must be doubled, so as to increase the share going to least developed countries to 75 per cent as soon as possible. The long-term sustainability and predictability of resources were equally important. The rapid decline of core resources for operational activities was alarming; although non-core resources were important, they were often driven by political considerations and remained earmarked as country- or sector-specific, thus limiting the flexibility to carry out horizontal activities that encompassed multiple target areas. The contradiction between the integrated and coordinated approached required by the Sustainable Development Goals and the segmented funding mechanism of the United Nations development system must be resolved.

38. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review must elaborate a scale of contributions to the development system by development partners. Core resources could also be mobilized through a replenishment consultation process, as was the practice in the Global Environment Facility and the International Development Association. Such measures could ensure the availability of the required resources in a predictable manner, thus reducing competition among agencies and significantly enhancing effectiveness.

39. Resident coordinators must be empowered with adequate resources to effectively fulfil their mandate. National ownership and leadership were vitally important; core competency, efficiency and expertise should be the determining factors for recruitment of staff members, while ensuring equitable geographical representation. Host countries should be involved in the appraisal of resident coordinators and country teams.

40. The least developed country category must be universally recognized to facilitate coordinated and coherent follow-up and monitoring of progress made in those countries. Given the growing challenges faced by least developed countries and insufficient support from traditional donors, increased development support in the form of South-South cooperation was more important than ever, as a complement to North-South cooperation. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies should support South-South and triangular cooperation so that developing countries could maximize the benefits of such cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

41. **Ms. Klausa** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to assess the operational activities of the United Nations development system through the lens of the major agreements adopted in 2015, with a view to making the system more fit for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. The development system must act in a more coordinated, effective, efficient and systematic manner, maintaining special focus on the least developed and fragile countries and marginalized groups.

42. The principle of form following function must continue to guide the operations of the United Nations development system, as well as the discussions on the quadrennial review. The current fragmentation of the United Nations development system hindered the delivery of its operational, standard-setting and normative mandates. Duplication of work and competition between United Nations entities must be avoided by reinforcing the need to work as one in an integrated and cross-sectoral fashion. The review should focus on outcomes rather than processes. The draft resolution should not be overly prescriptive or detailed, but instead provide clear and implementable mandates.

43. **Ms. Schive** (United States of America) said that the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was one of the most important resolutions that the Committee would negotiate in 2016. It was an opportunity to explore how to position

the United Nations development system in the new landscape defined by the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, in order to ensure that its agencies contributed to the achievement of those international goals in the most timely, efficient and effective way possible to help the maximum number of people. Her delegation would engage constructively to ensure a consensus outcome, working with all colleagues to craft a strategic, focused, coherent draft resolution that best positioned the United Nations development system to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Her delegation looked forward to working with all delegations on the issue of South-South cooperation, which was critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda.

44. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that the operational activities for development of the United Nations must, first and foremost, take into account the development and changing needs and priorities of Member States. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving sustainable development must be the core principles guiding negotiations during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. In that context, the outcome of the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system was a useful input. The 2030 Agenda could not be implemented without strengthening and empowering the country teams, resident coordinators and regional commissions, with a view to Delivering as One.

45. In order to achieve the necessary balance between core and non-core resources, her country supported the scaling up of core and core-like funding, as well as the more logical attribution of funds. It also called for greater transparency, accountability and governance.

46. South-South cooperation was an important strategy to assist the development efforts of developing countries but must be viewed as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Her delegation therefore welcomed the efforts of various United Nations entities to integrate South-South cooperation into their strategic plans for 2014-2016 and called on others to do likewise. She also welcomed the designation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and urged the Office for South-South Cooperation to ensure greater inter-agency synergy and resource efficiency in carrying out its mandate.

47. As the increasing economic dynamism of developing countries had boosted the role of South-South and triangular cooperation, her delegation reiterated the need for collective support from developed countries to further expand such activities. The Philippines would continue to provide technical assistance at all levels to its ASEAN neighbours and other developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, through its Technical Cooperation Council.

48. **Ms. Reguiera** (Cuba) said that the United Nations and its specialized agencies had an essential role to play in addressing development challenges and the consequences of the worldwide economic and financial crisis. The operational activities for development of the United Nations system were a vital component of sustainable development.

49. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be a good opportunity to reaffirm the principles that guided the activities of the United Nations development system at the country level, and to strengthen its intergovernmental nature and its strictly development-related objective. The system should be increasingly proactive in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, and more responsive to national strategies and priorities. The coordination of operational activities must ensure that all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes complied in a timely, inclusive and transparent manner with the guidelines established by their respective intergovernmental oversight bodies. Those guidelines must respect the principles of the voluntary acceptance and explicit consent of recipient States.

50. Developing countries must be decisive governance partners in the development system, as they were the best positioned to determine their assistance needs and priorities. The executive boards of funds and programmes must ensure respect for the principle of equitable geographic representation in their composition and decision-making mechanisms and guarantee the highest possible level of accountability to intergovernmental bodies. Efficient performance evaluation boosted the impact of operational activities on the ground and bolstered

respect and credibility. The keys to the success of operational activities for development were strict mandate compliance and respect for national sovereignty when determining assistance priorities.

51. Cuba reaffirmed the indivisible and universal nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system and operational activities should not be modelled on pre-established, "one-size-fits-all" formulas; they must be inclusive and non-discriminatory. Cuba welcomed the positive results achieved in strengthening the resident coordinator system; however, that process must remain voluntary, and take into account the specific mandates of funds and programmes.

52. Core resources were still the cornerstone of operational activities and were the only guarantee that the needs of host countries would be met. The growing imbalance between core and non-core resources must therefore be reversed. The focus on South-South cooperation was providing false justification for persistent failure by developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments; such cooperation must be seen as a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Development assistance was a central pillar and objective of the United Nations, as well as the most effective means to promote international peace and security, prevent conflict and achieve justice and equality. International development institutions should be able to draw on higher levels of predictable and non-conditional resources to promote socioeconomic development on a neutral basis, at the request of national Governments and with respect for national sovereignty.

53. *Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

54. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide long-term strategic guidance to the United Nations development system as it continued to adapt to the changing development cooperation landscape. The universal applicability and longer-term vision of the 2030 Agenda had a number of policy implications for the development system which would require system-wide interlinkages, interoperability and synergy among agencies and with private actors. For India, the main pillars of the review would be strict adherence to the 2030 Agenda and an unrelenting resolve to eradicate poverty in all its forms, while avoiding the creation of an excessively complex system. Member States should be able to count on a coherent, effective and efficient system focused on the functions that it was uniquely qualified to deliver, based on solid intergovernmental guidance and supported with predictable, adequate and flexible resources. Development activities must be based on the fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership, including respect for national development priorities; programming activities therefore needed to be harmonized with the budgetary and planning activities of recipient Governments.

55. South-South cooperation must be viewed as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation; the United Nations development system should facilitate South-South cooperation by channelling adequate resources and technology via its global, regional and country-level programmes. As South-South cooperation was an important aspect of its foreign policy, especially its engagement with developing partners, India had organized an international conference on the topic in March 2016. Other international meetings, such as that of the India-Africa Forum Summit and the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, had highlighted his country's unique experience in nation-building, given its large, diverse and complex reality. In a spirit of solidarity, India was committed to sharing its experience and knowledge on South-South cooperation with other countries from the South with similar paths of socioeconomic development; it had launched a number of national initiatives to that end which directly reflected the spirit of the 2030 Agenda.

56. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was of great importance in establishing concrete guidelines for the United Nations development system and laying the foundations for achieving the necessary medium- and long-term changes. It was vital to focus priority attention on financing the 2030 Agenda. His delegation welcomed the growing quantitative support for development processes by the United Nations system over the past decade, but was concerned about the trend in terms of quality. The growth of operational activities remained largely dependent on non-core resources, while the share of core resources as a percentage of operational activities remained

unchanged. That trend would hamper the ability of the development system to help Member States implement the 2030 Agenda, since non-core funding was an unpredictable and unreliable source of support for the processes of sustainable development.

57. His country believed that it was still relevant to develop the concept of a critical mass of core resources and welcomed the progress made by several United Nations agencies in 2015 in defining the general principles of that concept.

58. Although the largest share of resources for operational activities for development was allocated to the countries with the lowest incomes, it was important to bear in mind the need to support middle-income States, which accounted for two-thirds of the Organization's membership, and were experiencing specific development problems. In that regard, it was vital to develop an action plan within the United Nations system on cooperation with middle-income States, as had been strongly urged at international conferences over the preceding years. His delegation was convinced that stability and progress in middle-income countries would have a positive impact on the development process in lower-income States. It was important to develop cooperation between both groups of countries.

59. **Mr. Pinto Damiani** (Venezuela) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to function as the primary mechanism for sustainable development and poverty eradication worldwide. Greater capacity must be built in developing countries to promote sustainable development at the national level. Likewise, the United Nations system must enhance transparency and effectiveness so that the available resources could be deployed more effectively and efficiently. Operational activities for development must be universal and voluntary and adapted to specific national development needs and priorities. The Sustainable Development Goals were a crucial tool for poverty eradication; it was therefore essential for the quadrennial review to reflect the problems faced by the most vulnerable countries.

60. Based on the values of solidarity, complementarity, justice and self-determination, South-South cooperation was important pillar of development, but could not in any way serve as a substitute for North-South cooperation and commitments. Over a decade earlier, his country had formed the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement which facilitated access to oil through a new supply scheme that served in part to finance long-term development projects. His country had also participated in a number of other biregional forums. In that regard, it stressed the need to recognize the diversity of points of view in the region in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. Technology transfer and financing for development continued to be the primary obstacles to the industrialization of developing countries, which were often restricted to the role of suppliers of raw materials. His country called on the United Nations system, and in particular the development funds and programmes, to make greater efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to creating greater and better capacities.

62. **Mr. Kulikov** (Russian Federation) said that the central goal of the United Nations development system should continue to be to provide real assistance to countries' development. The promotion of sustainable development would ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of its ultimate goal, to ensure that no one was left behind. Direct support and service delivery should not be replaced by normative assistance in the area of monitoring and accountability. There were quite a few examples of substantial resources being wasted by the development system in the preparation of norms and guidelines, but when it came to taking real action, capacity was somehow nowhere to be found. Further forays by the development system into monitoring and consulting would lead only to diminished trust in it on the part of donors and recipients of assistance.

63. His country agreed that the proper functioning of the development system depended increasingly on financing, not so much because less money meant less activity but in terms of how the development system adapted to political and economic changes in donor countries. The Russian Federation had consistently

opposed the politicization of operational activities; in that regard, it supported strengthening the principle of the primacy of national leadership and responsibility for defining cooperation strategies with the development system. That position was linked with his delegation's position on the Delivering as One approach: despite the positive results obtained with respect to planning and reporting, it was premature to shift all development systems to that model.

64. The Russian Federation was not convinced that the transition to a targeted scale of voluntary contributions would be a panacea for addressing the problem of the decline in core resources. Instead, it would be better to employ so-called module financing, which allowed agencies to link some types of work to donors, depending on their financial capabilities and on their status as States, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society and so forth.

65. His delegation supported the further strengthening of the staffing system of the United Nations development system. It was very important to improve the system for attracting highly qualified specialists from new donor countries as well as from countries that received assistance. The selection and appointment system should be more transparent and comprehensive.

66. **Mr. Mulet Lind** (Guatemala) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an important opportunity to establish the guidelines for future operational activities for development and to reform the United Nations development system to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, coherence and impact of development activities on the ground. The 2030 Agenda and other international agreements must be adapted to national development agendas. Guatemala was in process of harmonizing its national development plan with the Agenda. The funds, programmes and specialized agencies must adapt their plans, operations and budgets to the new development landscape, and the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda must be integrated into every entity of the United Nations development system in order to be able to address the particular needs of countries in special situations.

67. As a middle-income country, Guatemala was closely following the quadrennial review negotiations, especially regarding the structure of financing for development and the resident coordinator system. On the issues of core versus non-core resources and cost recovery, his delegation called for collective efforts to adopt a draft resolution that put forward concrete solutions to promote the development of all countries and peoples.

68. Development, peace, security and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. His country welcomed the adoption by consensus of a definition of sustainable peace and proposed that the text of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review recognize the concept of sustainable peace, since the consolidation of peace contributed to the strengthening of national institutions, good governance and the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The concept of sustainable peace must be applied before, during and after any conflict, with the participation of all actors in society.

69. His delegation supported the view that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation. Guatemala urged all funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to work with countries to develop national capacities in order to maximize its impact.

70. *Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

71. **Mr. Lupan** (Republic of Moldova) said that the United Nations development system must adjust its functions, funding, organizational arrangements, capacity and partnership approaches to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, his country supported the idea of mapping the development system's field presence as well as the mandates and functions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds in order to avoid duplication or overlap of activities and achieve cost-effectiveness. While defining short-, medium- and long-term priorities for the development system, the changing development context as well as the interconnectedness of development activities and challenges must be considered. The development system must Deliver as One at all levels, global, regional and local, while placing particular emphasis on alignment with national needs and priorities and bridging the gap between development, human rights and peace and security

activities. Stronger coordination, collaboration and programmatic integration were of critical importance.

72. The draft resolution on the quadrennial review should set out a clear vision of the development system's mandate and means of delivery; it must also address the issues of management, accountability and transparency. Predictable, sustainable and flexible funding was of critical importance. Enhancing transparency and accountability on funding flows was an essential step to build trust and subsequently to incentivize donors to provide core and core-like resources, thereby reversing current funding practices. Innovative financial modalities must also be explored to provide adequate funding to enable the development system to accomplish its mandate. The reform of the United Nations development system was a prerequisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

73. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review came at a critical juncture, as the United Nations development system would be expected to operate at all levels within an increasingly complex and resource-limited environment, while recognizing the indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda. Consequently, the United Nations must significantly improve its efforts to achieve coordination and coherence, in order to enable horizontal, cross-cutting and interlinked operational activities for development.

74. The primary function of operational activities for development was to build national and subnational capacity in order to strengthen country ownership of the sustainable development process. The system must therefore be context-specific, with individual approaches tailored to the different needs and capacities of each country. Adequate and sustainable funding was essential, and innovative financing approaches should be explored to address the need to rebalance core and non-core funding. The development system must remain impartial, independent and transparent in all aspects of operational activities, as well as being aligned with national priorities and policies.

75. Indonesia valued South-South cooperation as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation offered developing countries a variety of resources that could be adapted to national circumstances, rather than a "one-size-fits-all" template for development. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation offered a viable and unique global forum for the exchange of South-South knowledge and experiences. The United Nations system should intensify its cooperation and support in areas where South-South and triangular cooperation had proven effective, including policy coordination, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through knowledge exchange and technological innovation.

76. *Ms. Nipomici (Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the chair.*

77. **Ms. Fladby** (Norway) said that her delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendations on changing the structure of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review so as to make it an instrument for change, starting with what the United Nations development system should be doing, and then attempting to agree on drivers for change. A step-by-step approach would be a realistic path to follow.

78. Her delegation agreed in general with the functions of the United Nations development system outlined in the Secretary-General's report, but noted that the task of contributing to prevention and resilience was missing. The United Nations development system needed to adopt differentiated modes of engagement, depending on the country context, in order to ensure that efforts and resources were concentrated where the needs were greatest. Direct support and service delivery should be reserved for the least developed countries and other countries with special needs.

79. Core resources remained crucial, especially for normative functions and policy advice in host countries; efforts should be made to improve burden sharing and to ensure full cost recovery. At the same time, more "core-like" funding modalities should be employed, in particular inter-agency funding modalities.

80. In accordance with the Delivering as One approach, the United Nations Development Group standard operating procedures and mandatory business operations strategies should be fully implemented in all countries. That goal would be facilitated by

harmonized planning periods among all agencies and full acceptance of the principle of mutual recognition of each other's procedures and business practices. It was important to work towards common strategic frameworks according to the principle of one country — one United Nations framework, based on common analyses of the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and conflict. The draft resolution should stress the need for enhanced and more systematic collaboration with the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions, which was particularly important in the context of fragile countries.

81. Her delegation believed that the role of United Nations resident coordinator should be separated from the role of the United Nations Development Programme resident representative in order to allow resident coordinators the independence and authority to respond to the needs and priorities of host countries. Minimum requirements for common resource mobilization under the leadership of the resident coordinator needed to be defined, as well as sufficient capacity at the resident coordinator's office.

82. She expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendations on integrating human rights and gender equality into all aspects of the work of the United Nations development system, as prerequisities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

83. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that coherent and integrated support from the United Nations system was key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the 2030 Agenda at the local, regional and global levels. Consensus had emerged in various areas during dialogues with the Economic and Social Council.

84. Firstly, the Sustainable Development Goals were indivisible. There had to be an end to work in silos at all levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should therefore be a process in which development was perceived as sustainable development for which the eradication of poverty was a prerequisite; integration, meaning the identification of interlinkages and synergies, was also essential. The role of the Under-Secretary General for sustainable development should therefore be strengthened and sustainable development should be mainstreamed into the system.

85. Secondly, a bottom-up approach was needed to ensure that participation went from the local to the global levels. The legitimacy and effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda was dependent on its implementation, follow-up and monitoring. A new generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks might even be more important than the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, although the latter should guide the system to ensure that the people took ownership of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local levels, as that was the only way for the system to provide support tailored to national circumstances and priorities. Delivering as One should be the basis for the new generation of Development Assistance Frameworks, which should in turn strengthen inclusive institutions bringing together all stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

86. Thirdly, the system needed to be accountable for its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Information on operational activities should be readily accessible and used not only to monitor State entities but also to raise peoples' awareness of processes that ultimately needed to meet their needs. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should therefore be less bureaucratic and have clear mandates and guiding principles that identified the functions and responsibilities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and their respective governance structures.

87. Fourthly, the regional economic commissions could act as catalysts for integrated responses from the system to the needs of countries in their respective regional contexts. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was a model of best practices in that regard. The regional coordination mechanisms of specialized agencies, funds and programmes would be key to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring global accountability within the framework of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

88. **Mr. Wu** Haitao (China) said that the United Nations development system needed to strengthen coordination among its institutions. The objectives of operational activities for development should be clearly defined, and concrete actions should be taken. During the consultations on the quadrennial

comprehensive policy review, both the current situation and the future should be taken into account, with priority given to such fundamental issues as poverty elimination, response to natural disasters, climate change and public health, so as to ensure the effectiveness of development activities.

89. Second, the international community s must adhere to the principles of national ownership and leadership. It was clearly stated in the 2030 Agenda that every State had the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development; national sovereignty was therefore critical to sustainable development. United Nations development activities should be universal, voluntary, neutral and multilateral; the rights of recipient countries should be respected, and programmes should be aligned with national conditions and requirements.

90. Third, given the difficulty of achieving economic growth, improving livelihoods and eliminating poverty, development activities should help developing countries to build their capacities. In particular, support to the African, least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States should be increased, and a focus should be placed on the imbalance of the development of middle-income countries.

91. Fourth, global development partnerships should be strengthened, and ample resources as well as fair and appropriate resource structures should serve as guarantees for development activities. Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the international community should insist on North-South cooperation as the main channel for development cooperation. Developed countries should fulfil their ODA commitments, increase core resource contributions, and increase the flexibility of non-core resources. Developing countries should deepen South-South cooperation and give full effect to its role as a supplement to North-South cooperation.

92. Fifth, reform of the United Nations development system should be advanced in a steady and progressive manner. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda imposed greater demands on the system, which should make use of its comparative advantage to better adapt to the new situation as well as strengthen coordination and cooperation among institutions.

93. China was a developing country with a population of 1.3 billion; it had already incorporated the specific targets of the 2030 Agenda into its national development plans, and was currently taking action to lift 50 million people out of poverty. China held the Presidency of the Group of 20 in 2016 and had promoted a development focus, as well as an action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It would continue to support the United Nations activities for development and would provide as much assistance as possible to other developing countries under the South-South cooperation framework.

94. **Ms. Lee** Ning Sun (Singapore) said that the 2030 Agenda called for re-tooling economies and societies. Estimates of the cost of implementing the Agenda were in the trillions of dollars, which would require an integrated approach based on multiple sources that engaged multiple stakeholders. Renewed commitment and intensified international cooperation was therefore needed from everyone concerned. For the least developed countries and small island developing States in particular, ODA remained an important pillar of development financing. However, public finance would have to be leveraged to mobilize private-sector engagement, and South-South cooperation also had a role to play.

95. Her country had been making efforts to ensure that economic development was accompanied by social progress and environmental protection ever since gaining its independence in 1965, long before environmental sustainability became fashionable and climate change became a global issue. Singapore was committed to paying forward the technical assistance it had received from developed countries, fellow developing countries and international organizations when it was a young country. Its own experience had shown that targeted technical assistance could be a powerful catalyst for development.

96. The Singapore Cooperation Programme, now in its twenty-fifth year, was providing training to over 100,000 officials from other developing countries. Her Government was now working with various United Nations agencies to support efforts by developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. It had also tailored training programmes for small island developing States in areas including sustainable development, climate change and public governance.

In conjunction with Google Singapore, her Government had just hosted the first instalment of a programme on "Technology, the Future Economy and Southeast Asia". Its technical cooperation with other developing countries was based on the principle that human resources were vital and capacity-building through continuous consultations could deliver the best outcomes.

97. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide the necessary strategic guidelines to enable the various components of the development system to implement the 2030 Agenda and support the policies and strategies of Member States. United Nations operational activities for development should take several priorities into consideration. Combating poverty must remain the top priority, as a cross-cutting objective on which the achievement of the other Sustainable Development Goals depended. The activities of the United Nations development bodies must be aligned with the national priorities of the beneficiary countries in order to be effective. Each country had its own particular needs and its own way of interpreting the 2030 Agenda. The creation and strengthening of national capacities must remain a strategic goal of development partners, both at the level of policy formulation and planning and in the context of implementation, follow-up and assessment. The strengthening of national statistical capacities was also particularly important.

98. Coherence in the efforts of United Nations agencies to assist developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda was crucial. His delegation called on those agencies to collaborate and coordinate with one another to improve the efficiency and impact of their work on the ground. It was of paramount importance to ensure flexibility and transparency in the interactions of the agencies with their Government partners at the national level in the context of the Delivering as One initiative, which must remain voluntary . Each United Nations agency or institution had its own mandate, comparative advantages, and mechanisms of governance, and it was up to each country to determine its modes of interaction with the various components of the country team in implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

99. The disparity between core and non-core resources must be rectified so that sufficient, predictable and multi-year resources could be made available to the development system and enable it to perform its functions.

100. South-South and triangular cooperation should be prioritized, in view of their great potential in the areas of capacity-building, transfer of technology and knowledge, trade and investment, growth and employment. South-South cooperation was an important part of his country's foreign policy, and his delegation encouraged the various entities of the United Nations system to make more efforts in that regard. The United Nations system was well-positioned to facilitate increased opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation, and Morocco was prepared to participate in that endeavour by means of its relevant initiatives and long-lasting partnerships emphasizing human development and investment in productive sectors. His country regarded regional and subregional integration as a strategic priority, and had long supported market access and exemption from import duties for the least developed countries in Africa, a policy which had contributed to the strong growth of commercial transactions between Morocco and its partners in the South.

101. **Mr Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review presented a crucial opportunity for the General Assembly to provide policy orientation for the United Nations development system. The draft resolution should reaffirm and strengthen the principles and main features of the United Nations operational activities for development, most notably, national ownership of developing countries over their development processes; set the tone and vision for the next 14 years, guiding the adaptation of the United Nations development system to better support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on what was working properly, filling gaps and reducing overlaps; and provide clear and action-oriented mandates for the coming four years, addressing the main challenges and opportunities faced by the United Nations development system. The common goal should be to enhance the system's contribution to development outcomes at the global, regional and national levels and make its functioning more coherent, its governance more effective and accountable and its funding sufficient and

more predictable. Those mandates should be accompanied by a clear follow-up process enabling Member States and the system to identify and address challenges that could arise during implementation. All that could be done in a resolution that was strong, clear and more concise than General Assembly resolution 67/226. During negotiations, the operational activities for development of the United Nations, which were the scope and focus of the resolution, must be central.

102. The focus on operational activities meant that it was not necessary, during the current process, for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to detail thematic priorities. Those priorities were dealt with by the Agenda itself, and by each national Government, through their country programme documents and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The United Nations development system should not select favourites among the indivisible and equally important Sustainable Development Goals. Thematic priorities would be discussed further when the next cycle of strategic plans for funds, programmes and agencies was prepared. The central objective would therefore be to work cross-sectorally across the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A crucial feature of the exercise was the universality of the 2030 Agenda, which altered the traditional relationship between donors and recipients. Agencies and funds must adapt to that reality.

103. Finally, the United Nations development system should be flexible enough to address national challenges in different contexts, with developing countries receiving priority, especially the most vulnerable among them. The demand-driven approach was crucial in that regard, and that approach was also the most appropriate for system support to South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. System-wide coordination, with greater engagement with national focal points, was crucial. Actions, including the definition of criteria and parameters, should be planned and implemented with the leadership of developing countries.

104. **Ms. Flores Herrera** (Panama) said that to transform the development landscape, a system was needed whose parts worked in harmony. That called for a renewed focus on Delivering as One and on actions that maximized benefits. A coherent and transparent system was necessary to guarantee closer integration of policies in relation to the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations: development, human rights, and peace and security.

105. There was no single approach that worked for all. Harmonizing United Nations processes continued to be important to prevent duplication and reduce transaction costs. Operational activities must be flexible, responding to the needs of developing countries, and must be carried out at the request of recipient countries, in line with their own development strategies and priorities.

106. Insufficient support for middle-income countries was a challenge, as those countries faced diverse difficulties. In line with paragraph 129 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and paragraph 48 of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations development system must go beyond traditional classification of countries based solely on income and devise a new method that reflected the multidimensional nature of poverty and development.

107. Development cooperation was essential for implementing the 2030 Agenda in all countries. Increased poverty and inequality, rapid globalization and the growing need for a global approach to problems, and the emergence of new development actors and mechanisms, had a deep impact on development cooperation. South-South cooperation played an increasingly complementary role as compared to North-South cooperation. It should not be a substitute, but should rather contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda. It would remain pivotal for finding innovative solutions and was a tool for exchange of best practices among developing countries. Efforts in the area of South-South cooperation must be intensified in order to maximize benefits in such areas as national capacity-building, statistics and standard-setting. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and believed that the role should be strengthened.

108. **Mr. Batti** (Pakistan) said that the support of the United Nations development system to developing countries, in line with national policies, priorities and needs, would be critical to achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The range of issues covered by the Agenda

and their universal nature required significant recalibration of the United Nations development system in its organizational, institutional, functional, financial and operational aspects. Willingness to change on the part of the United Nations development system would be critical, as would the realization that the process was not starting from scratch and that it was necessary to build on successes already achieved, lessons learned and anticipated challenges. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system had been very helpful, particularly the inputs from the Independent Team of Advisors.

109. Pakistan supported a strong, focused and operational draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. However, brevity should not result in critical details being left out. The reformed United Nations development system must maintain a development focus and ensure strong engagement and sufficient flexibility to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It should mainstream and prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, so that it could respond to developing countries' needs and priorities under national ownership and leadership, taking into account the expanded scope of the 2030 Agenda.

110. It was extremely important to address fragmentation and overlaps in governance at all levels in order to ensure transparency, accountability and responsiveness to Member States. The role of the Economic and Social Council must be strengthened to guide the United Nations development system and ensure effective implementation of the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It would also be worthwhile to explore linkages between the Chief Executive Board of Coordination and its High-level Committees, on the one hand, and the Economic and Social Council, on the other.

111. The deteriorating core resources of the United Nations development system and increased reliance on non-core resources remained a matter of serious concern that must be addressed comprehensively with tangible measures in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

112. At the country level, the United Nations development system should seek to complement national efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The programmatic activities of the United Nations must be consistent with national programmatic activities and development priorities. The recalibrated system should strengthen national capacities and use of national execution mechanisms and local expertise in the implementation of its operational activities. It was important to strengthen the role and functions of the resident coordinator system, including its accountability to national Governments for agreed results. Competition for resources remained a major challenge to integrated delivery and must be addressed, in order to strengthen the resident coordinator system at the national level.

113. A new dynamism in South-South collaborative efforts and initiatives had greatly increased the scope for cooperation among countries of the South. However, that cooperation must continue to be guided by the agreed principles, including respect for national sovereignty and ownership. With increased support for South-South cooperation from the United Nations development system, as well as enhanced commitments on the part of development partners, it would be possible to unlock the potential of the South to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable global development.

114. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that the rapidly changing global development landscape and the transformative and ambitious Sustainable Development Goals demanded a reformed United Nations development system. The system's core functions should be aligned with the Goals so as to deliver demand-driven results at the country level, anchored in national ownership and leadership. The existing funding architecture should also be improved by ensuring adequate and predictable funding. It was therefore imperative to broaden the donor base to support the core functions of the system and address the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

115. The United Nations development system should improve its governance mechanism to ensure system-wide transparency and accountability in order to provide effective support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. That would enhance financial and management effectiveness and strengthen coordination and coherence, and would also enable the United Nations development system to better respond to national development priorities.

116. The 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the negotiations should aim to provide concrete solutions so that the United Nations development system would have greater impact on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other recently adopted development frameworks. The United Nations development system should also reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, as they were given special attention in those global frameworks.

117. His Government had worked to eradicate extreme poverty, and through comprehensive national development policies it had succeeded in halving the poverty rate and achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations development system had been one of its top development partners, providing assistance aligned with national priorities. The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2016-2020 took into account the second national five-year growth and transformation plan for the same period. By avoiding duplication of effort and optimising the use of financial and human resources, the Delivering as One approach had also resulted in significant progress.

118. The United Nations should strengthen the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, and that should be complemented through fulfilment of ODA commitments and the strengthening of South-South cooperation.

119. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that despite a decrease in extreme poverty levels worldwide, inequalities continued to grow. Discussion on the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be instrumental in helping to formulate a better response to the needs and priorities of developing countries and ensuring progress on sustainable development that would go beyond income criteria. That issue was particularly relevant to the needs of the middle-income countries.

120. The recent unprecedented rise in humanitarian emergencies consumed significant resources. The objectives of compatibility, coordination and non-duplication of efforts within different, internationally recognized and supported formats of crisis response were as important as ever. Advancing its conceptual, normative and operational capacity to strengthen and adapt the prevention function and build greater resilience was a priority for the United Nations system.

121. Her delegation looked forward to discussions that would address system-wide issues such as inter-agency coherence and coordination, transparency and accountability, while maintaining the level of detail and expertise across the system's multiple sectors. Through its membership in the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, her Government had advocated for enhanced dialogue among those agencies. Under the Armenian Presidency of the Executive Board during the current year, open and active communication on the 2030 Agenda and related matters had been promoted, including through the first joint dialogue, "Advancing the Humanitarian Development Nexus in the Context of the 2030 Agenda."

122. Development was very much a local matter. Globalization of a development agenda did not necessarily lead to greater, faster or more inclusive growth at the national level. While the Sustainable Development Goals represented a global policy framework, it was national Governments that drove the development and reform agenda. Discussions of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should focus on the most effective ways of bringing change at the local level, including through an improved and consolidated field presence and flexibility that allowed for country-specific needs.

123. Funding remained a key priority. It was widely recognized that external resources for development cooperation in middle-income countries were decreasing. It would be critical to mobilize and strengthen the focus on quality and tangible, results-oriented programming to target those most in need, regardless of geography, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

124. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Mexico) said that the agencies and programmes of the United Nations development system must align themselves with the 2030 Agenda and move away from the existing bureaucratic system. Activities must be implemented more efficiently and there should be full accountability so that the Agenda could be truly global and transformative. The universal and indivisible nature of

the Agenda must be upheld, and the silos, duplications and isolated efforts that had prevailed thus far must be avoided.

125. Far-reaching changes must be made in order to expand the concept of development to include sustainable development and support peace and human rights, bringing together all actors at the global, regional and national levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should add sustainability to its mandate and ensure the transition from "the future we want" to "the United Nations we need", both at the central level and in the field, in order to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

126. At the central level, her delegation recognized the need for a strengthened body for management and coordination of the development system, but believed that, before creating a new governance structure, existing structures should be reformed first, by merging or eliminating redundant structures and strengthening others. Specialized agencies must be included in that process, so that true change could occur in the short and medium term and fragmentation of development efforts and programmes could be avoided.

127. The 24 entities of the system must work together through all of their 1,400 offices in 180 countries in line with the principle of delivering as one, in order to transition towards the principle of operating as one; they should share premises and country programmes and pursue integrated policies ensuring the provision of joint services. Resident coordinators could not be leaders and at the same time compete for resources, and must maintain a close dialogue with the country teams. Accountability and transparency were indispensable for building confidence in the system and a greater sense of ownership among beneficiaries.

128. The United Nations should promote a more integrated system of international development cooperation and encourage Member States to take advantage of modalities such as South-South and triangular cooperation; that would help to leverage more resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, reduce inequalities between and within countries and avoid one-size-fits-all formulas. In order to leave no one behind, it was important for development cooperation to be effective and predictable, based on such models as the Global Partnership for Effective Development.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.